

CAREER QUICK FACTS:

PSYCHIATRY



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
Career Center

Psychiatry is a branch of medicine concerned with the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders. A psychiatrist is a medical doctor who specializes in mental health. Job duties of a psychiatrist:

- Diagnosing mental health disorders using a variety of medical and psychological testing
- Prescribing medication including antidepressants, mood stabilizers, antipsychotics, sedatives, and hypnotics
- Performing psychotherapy, also known as talk therapy
- Treating individuals for substance use disorders

Important Skills: medical knowledge, diagnosis, understanding of medications and their uses, interpersonal communication, therapy, and counseling, crisis management

Source: Psychiatry.org

How do I become a Psychiatrist?

Psychiatrists are required to complete medical school and take a written examination to attain a state license to practice medicine. A four-year residency is required after medical school, and more training may be required for specializations such as child psychiatry. It typically takes 8-10 years of education after obtaining an undergraduate degree to become a psychiatrist. Psychiatrists usually spend the first year of their residency in a hospital working with a wide range of medical illnesses before specializing in mental health. After residency, psychiatrists can take written and oral examinations to become board certified. Some psychiatrists pursue combined training, such as in psychiatry and internal or family medicine.

Source: Psychiatry.org

Career Outlook

Projected Job Growth 2022-2032: 6.7%

- Average job growth for all occupations is 3%

Median Annual Salary: \$138,890

- Median salaries represent the exact middle point of salaries for this career (half are higher, half are lower).
- This is not an expectation for your *starting* salary. You will likely start at a lower salary and may see increases as you progress through your career.

*According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (bls.gov) and US News and World Report

What's the difference between psychiatry and psychology?

The most obvious difference between a psychiatrist and a psychologist is that a psychiatrist earns a medical degree (MD or DO), and a psychologist earns a doctoral degree (PhD or PsyD). A psychiatrist can perform some of the same tasks as a psychologist such as provide talk therapy, and they can prescribe medication. A psychologist can treat mental health disorders with talk therapy, but they may also specialize in research or psychological testing and evaluation.

Source: Psychiatry.org



The following minors and undergraduate certificates may be helpful in pursuit of this career field.

Minors to Consider

Biology – Biomedical Physiology
Cellular Biology – Biochemistry
Chemistry – Cognitive Science
Communication Studies – Genetics
Global Health – Microbiology – Personal Health and Well-Being – Public Health

Certificates to Consider

Disability Studies – Global Health
Immunology – Infectious Diseases – One Health – Strategic Health and Risk Communication

Courses to Consider

COMM 1500 Interpersonal Communication
PSYC 3260, 3810
Any PSYC Group A course
PSYC 3230 Psychopathology
PSYC 5850 Psychopharmacology
LAMS 2000E, 3000E, 3010E, 3020E
See PPAO Advisor for preparatory classes

Want to talk to a Psychiatrist?
Check out the UGA Mentor Program!

